

53. On New and Rare Reptiles and Batrachians from the Australian Region. By JOAN B. PROCTER, F.Z.S., F.L.S., Curator of Reptiles to the Society.

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(Text-figures 3 & 4.)

Several interesting collections from the Australian Region have recently been received by the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). I shall include four in this one paper, and limit it for the sake of brevity to notes on rarities and descriptions of new species.

I.—NEW GUINEA.

Mr. W. Potter recently collected for the Museum in N.E. New Guinea, and besides large series of the commoner things, obtained several rare lizards and a new skink. The latter I have named after Mr. C. J. Battersby, who has been a most helpful assistant to me throughout the time that I was in charge of the Museum's collections of Reptilia and Batrachia.

LACERTILIA.

GECKONIDÆ.

GYMNODACTYLIS LORLÆ Blgr.

A male (length: head 45 mm., body 110 mm., tail missing), at least twice as large as the male type-specimen, the only individual already in the Collection; in other particulars the two specimens are identical.

GYMNODACTYLUS LOUISIADENSIS de Vis.

A very large well-preserved female (length: head 35 mm., body 93 mm., tail 47 mm.). The three specimens of this rare Gecko already in the Museum are from the D'Entrecasteaux Group and the Solomon Islands.

PYGOPODIDÆ.

LIALIS JICARI Blgr.

One adult of this extremely rare Pygopod was collected at Lababia. Each dorsal scale, with the exception of the two median series, has a small black apical dot, and is also finely speckled. The species was only known from the three type-specimens.

SCINGIDÆ.

LYGOSOMA (LIOLEPISMA) VIRENS Peters.

Four of these sharp-nosed skinks were collected on the banks of the River Adler, Huon Gulf.

LYGOSOMA (LIOLEPISMA) LONGICEPS Blgr.

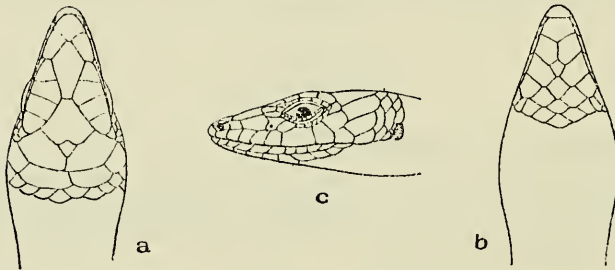
One very well-marked adult from Lae.

The digits are depressed with smooth lamellæ below as far as the end joint; the distal phalanx is slender and compressed, and the digits therefore resemble those of a *Hemidactylus*.

LYGOSOMA (EMOA) BATTERSBYI, sp. n.

Snout moderate in length, obtusely pointed. Rostral small, twice as broad as deep, forming a suture with the frontonasal, which is broader than long and roundly pointed anteriorly; frontal three-fifths broad as long, as long as fronto- and interparietals together; frontoparietals fused; interparietal small, distinct; parietals forming a short median suture, and followed by a pair of enlarged nuchals. Nostril pierced between a minute nasal, small postnasal, and supranasal; frontonasals separated from each other; lower eyelid with a transparent disk; sixth upper labial in place of subocular. Ear-opening small, not as

Text-figure 3.

Head of *Lygosoma (Ema) battersbyi*, sp. n.

a. dorsal view; b. ventral view; c. lateral view.

large as the transparent palpebral disk; one auricular lobule. Digits long, distally compressed; thirty smooth lamellæ under fourth finger, forty under fourth toe.

Scales in thirty rows; sharply tri- or quinquecarinate. Marginal anals slightly enlarged.

Habit lacertiform; the distance between the tip of the snout and the fore-limb equals the distance between axilla and groin; the hind-limb reaches to in front of the shoulder when adpressed. Tail nearly twice length of head and body.

Olive-green above, lighter on the head; opalescent beneath. An indistinctly marked light lateral band, black-edged.

A single adult specimen from Huon Gulf, N.E. New Guinea.

Allied to *L. tropidolepis* Blgr.*, from which it differs in having the interparietal shield distinct and the marginal præanals enlarged.

II.—QUEENSLAND.

Two collections are considered in this chapter. One made by Mr. T. V. Sherrin in Ravenshoe, N. Queensland, includes several rare species until now unrepresented in the Museum's collection. The other, made by Capt. Wilkins in S.E. and C. Queensland, although small, also includes rare things.

ECAUDATA.

CYSTIGNATHIDÆ.

LIMNODYNASTES FLETCHERI Blgr.

Wilkins Collection. St. George's District, C. Queensland.

One male specimen of this rare frog was obtained. The skin is glandular and the markings clearly defined, spots in paired lateral series beginning on the loreal region and continuing from the temporal; a large shield-shaped occipital blotch and large median dorsal and sacral markings. Basal web between the toes well marked.

Originally described from New South Wales †, but recently recorded from S. Queensland.

ENGYSTOMATIDÆ.

SPHENOPHYRNE VARIABILIS Blgr.

Sherrin Collection. Ravenshoe, N. Queensland.

One male specimen of this rare frog was collected. It differs from typical specimens in having a slightly longer snout, but I hesitate to give it a distinct varietal name on this account. In all other respects it agrees with the type-series, and the characteristic markings are well defined. This species was known only from Celebes.

HYLIDÆ.

HYLA LESUEURII D. & B.

Wilkins Collection. C. Queensland.

A single male of this extraordinary *Hyla* was collected; the species is unlike all the rest in the genus, resembling *Rana agilis* in general appearance.

EDURA TRYONI de Vis (OCELLATA Blgr.).

Sherrin Collection. Two specimens from Ravenshoe, N. Queensland.

* Boulenger, Trans. Zool. Soc. xx. 1914, p. 260, pl. xxix. figs. 4, 4 a.

† Boulenger, Ann. Mag. N. H. (6) ii. 1888, p. 142.

VARANUS VARIUS Shaw.

Wilkins Collection. One specimen (skull and dried skin; total length 49": head and body 19" and tail 30").

In this specimen the characteristic yellow spots are absent on the anterior half of the body, which is merely speckled; they are well marked, however, on the posterior half.

VARANUS VARIUS var. BELLI Gray.

Wilkins Collection. Two specimens (skulls and dried skins) of this beautiful banded variety. The Museum had only one specimen. The new pair are 50" (tail 30") and 41" (body 20", tail truncated) respectively. The four dorsal and three caudal bands are arranged as follows:—

The first band is lunate, extending from the head backwards to the shoulders; the second is shaped like a bolero jacket; the third is very broad, with convex borders pointed medially; the fourth covers the sacral region and the upper part of the thighs. There follow three caudal bands, the first 4" wide, the second 8", the third 5"; the tip of the tail is also dark. All the intermediate areas are bright sand-coloured, black speckled.

SCINCIDÆ.

LYGOSOMA (HINULIA) QUOYI D. & B.

Sherrin Collection. Three well-marked specimens from Ravenshoe, N. Queensland.

Although this species has a wide range of distribution, it is rare and local.

LYGOSOMA (HINULIA) TENUE Gray.

Wilkins Collection. One adult collected on Tambourine Mt., S.E. Queensland. This individual is *L. murrayi* Blgr. of the British Museum Catalogue (iii, p. 232). The Museum has only the specimen originally collected by H.M.S. 'Challenger.' On comparing these two specimens of *murrayi*, which have 34 scale-rows, with the series of *tenue* the supposed differences in the size of the ear-opening and in coloration cannot be detected, and without counting the scale-rows it is impossible to tell them apart. *L. tenue* is already known to have scale-rows in 28, 30, or 32 rows, so that it seems impossible to maintain individuals with 34 rows as a distinct species on this character alone. *L. murrayi* Blgr., therefore, should be placed in the synonymy of *L. tenue* Gray.

LYGOSOMA (HINULIA) MONOTROPIS Blgr.

Wilkins Collection. One adult from C. Queensland.

Sandy brown, with ten dark transverse bands on neck and body and twenty-three on the tail. Some of these bands bifurcate on the sides.

LYGOSOMA (LIOLEPISMA) CHALLENGERI Blgr.

This species is only known from the two type-specimens which were received from the 'Challenger' Expedition in 1882. Mr. Sherrin has collected two more in Ravenshoe, both agreeing precisely with ours and with the description in the British Museum Catalogue (vol. iii. p. 268).

LYGOSOMA (RHODONA) PUNCTATOVITTATUM Gthr.

Wilkins Collection. One specimen from Thomby Station, St. George, Central S. Queensland. Until last year we possessed only the type-specimen of this species from Queensland. Prof. Wood-Jones then sent us one collected on Flinders Island in the Great Australian Bight. Zeitz records it from Queensland, Victoria, and Tasmania, so that, although so rare, its range probably extends all over the eastern half of the continent. The present specimen agrees in every particular with the type and with the description in the British Museum Catalogue (iii. p. 335).

LYGOSOMA (HOMOLEPIDA) MJÖBERGI Lönnb. & And.

Sherrin Collection. This species is new to the British Museum. One adult was collected, minus half its tail but otherwise well preserved. It agrees well with Lönnberg and Anderson's description*.

TROPIDOPHORUS QUEENSLANDI de Vis.

Sherrin Collection. This species is also a great rarity new to the Museum's collection. An adult and one very young specimen were obtained which agree well with the minutely detailed description given by de Vis† in everything except markings. They have very pale alternating cross-bands, which give a reticulated effect dorsally and continue on the tail. Beneath, the pale tint predominates, with reticulations on the chin, down the sides and beneath the tail. A median dark wavy band from the chest to the vent. The two specimens are marked exactly alike.

OPHIDIA.

COLUBRIDÆ.

HOPLOCEPHALUS BITORQUATUS Jan.

Wilkins Collection. One young specimen from Thomby Station, near St. George, Central S. Queensland. It has a well-defined cream-coloured nuchal collar and the characteristic black markings on the head. The Museum has not received a specimen of this rare snake since 1876.

ELAPINÆ.

PSEUDECHIS AUSTRALIS Gray.

Wilkins Collection. One chestnut-brown adult from Thomby Station, Central S. Queensland. Aberrant in having 19 scale-rows on the body; 21 on the neck.

* Lönn. & And. Kungl. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Handl. lii. 1915, p. 6.
† Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, 1889, vol. iv. p. 1034.

III.—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

In 1921 Prof. Wood-Jones made a very valuable collection of lizards in Nytt's Archipelago and the Investigator Group. These lizards, which he presented to the Museum, were mostly rare skinks, amongst them a new species—*Iggyosoma (Homolepida) wood-jonesi*. The description of the latter, with notes on that collection, appear elsewhere*. This year Prof. Wood-Jones has sent us a supplementary collection mostly from the coast of the mainland, including a new *Amphibolurus* and several rare geckos and skinks. Only species of special interest in this second collection will be noted here.

LACERTILIA.

G E C K O N I D Æ.

HETERONOTA BINOEI Gray.

Whilst working at Prof. Wood-Jones's specimens I compared our series of *H. binoei* and *derbiana* Gray, and came to the conclusion that they cannot be maintained as distinct species. The arrangement of the dorsal tubercles is subject to great individual variation, the *derbiana* form completely intergrading with that proper to *binoei*.

DIPLODACTYLUS TESSELLATUS Gray.

There are but two specimens already in the Museum's collection. Prof. Wood-Jones obtained another on a journey from Hergath Springs, N.E., to Kilalpaninna, Cooper's Creek. Unfortunately all three are males.

PEROPUS VARIEGATUS Dum. et Bibr.

Prof. Wood-Jones's specimens would formerly have been called *Gehyra australis*, but Fry has pointed out † that the genus should be *Peropus* Wieg., and series of specimens now show that *australis* intergrades with *variegatus*.

AMPHIBOLURUS IMBRICATUS Peters.

Prof. Wood-Jones collected one female at Berri, River Murray. Its scales are extremely lanceolate and the characteristic markings are indistinct. The Museum until now had only two specimens of this very rare species—both females—so that in this case the reverse of the state of things noted under *Diplodactylus tessellatus* has occurred, and we have now three females of *A. imbricatus* and no males, and three males of *D. tessellatus* and no females.

* Procter, "Flora and Fauna of Nytt's Archipelago and the Investigator Group. No. 5—Lizards." Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Australia, 1923.

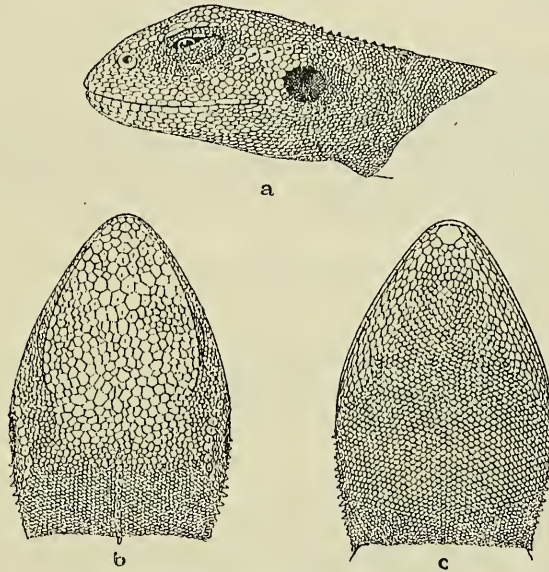
† Fry, Rec. W. Aust. Mus. i. 1914, p. 178.

AMPHIBOLURUS FIONNI, sp. n.

Habit slender, limbs very long.

Head moderate; snout as long as the orbit, with strongly-marked canthus rostralis and concave loreal region; nostril nearer the eye than tip of snout, situated below the canthus edge; tympanum as large as eye-opening; upper head-scales tubercular, keeled on the snout, smallest on the supraocular region. Sides of neck strongly plicate; a fold set with small spines from the angle of the mouth to the shoulder, others below the eye and above the tympanum, and one in the form of a low nuchal

Text-figure 4.

Head of *Amphibolurus fionni*, sp. n.

a. lateral view; b. dorsal view; c. ventral view.

crest, flanked by a pair reaching from the occiput to the shoulders. Gular scales minute. Body covered with small keeled scales, which are minute on the sides and enlarged on the vertebral region. No enlarged ones scattered on the sides. Ventral scales small, smooth, the ones under the fore-arm and under the tibia keeled. Caudal scales small, strongly keeled.

Limbs very long, the fourth toe reaching to the nostril when the hind-limb is adpressed, scales on the limbs slightly enlarged, strongly keeled. Digits long, distinctly fringed. About 40 femoral pores, slightly interrupted in the middle. Tail slender; depressed at the base; twice length of head and body.

Upper surfaces all olive-grey with darker variation. A lateral series of large dark blotches. Greyish white beneath, the throat reticulated with grey.

Described from a single female. Head and body 60 mm. in length; tail 118 mm.

This species is allied to *A. ornatus* Gray, from W. Australia, from which it may easily be distinguished as follows:—

A. ornatus Gray.

Lateral scales heterogeneous.
No nuchal crest or spinose folds on head and neck (described from an adult male).

Toes feebly fringed.

A. fionni, sp. n.

Lateral scales homogeneous.
A low nuchal crest and several lateral spinose folds on neck (although described from a small female).

Toes strongly fringed.

Since the type is a small female the spinose folds make a distinguishing character, as we know that adult males in *ornatus* do not have them, and it is to be expected that the male of the new species would have them still more developed. The coloration and markings are also quite distinctive, but this might be sexual.

It is also allied to *A. rufescens* Stirling, but the characters in which it differs from this are more numerous.

AMPHIBOLURUS ADELAIDENSIS Gray.

Prof. Wood-Jones caught three specimens of this beautifully-marked species, which has not been received here for the past fifty years.

TYMPANOCRYPTIS CEPHALUS Gthr.

Zeitzi in his Catalogue (p. 198) places this species in the synonymy of *T. lineatus* Peters. The two species are, however, quite distinct; *lineatus* has sharply-keeled scales and spinose tubercles; *cephalus* has smooth, more cycloid scales and less spinose tubercles. The present collection included a female and young.

LYGOSOMA (LIOLEPISMA) ENTRECASTEAUXII D. & B.

The adult collected by Prof. Wood-Jones is the first to be added to the Museum's collection since the publication of the Catalogue in 1887. As far as I am aware, it has so far only been recorded from Tasmania. The present specimen was caught on Pearson's Island, Investigator Group.

The new specimen has tricarinate dorsal scales, and is exceptionally well marked.

LYGOSOMA (RHODONA) BOUGAINVILLII Gray.

One adult was collected at Port Lincoln.

LYGOSOMA (RHODONA) BIPES Fischer.

This species is very rarely met with in South Australia.

ABLEPHARUS LINEO-OCELLATUS var. *ADELAIDENSIS* Peters.

One adult of this rare variety from Port Lincoln.

OPHIDIA.

ELAPINÆ.

DIEMENIA TEXTILIS D. & B.

Kreft states that young specimens from Adelaide lack the typical dorsal bands met with in young from elsewhere. A specimen in the present collection from Mt. Lofty bears this out, but it is well worth noting that there is a specimen from N. Queensland in the Museum's collection which is precisely similar in this respect.